

COMMANDING OFFICER  
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29 PALMS CA 92278



## *The Record of Fire*

3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines Newsletter February 2005

If you have received this newsletter in error or would like to update your address for the 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines family address list, please email the Assistant Family Readiness Officer at [beyerja@29palms.usmc.mil](mailto:beyerja@29palms.usmc.mil) or call 760-830-5535



# The Record of Fire

February 2005

## A NOTE FROM THE

# 3/11 Commanding Officer

February 2004

Dear Friends and Families of 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines:

First and foremost, I wanted to thank you for your support to our Marines and Sailors in the battalion. As I have said on numerous occasions, we could not do what we do without you.

Since this is the first *Record of Fire* newsletter published this year, I want to provide an update as to what we've accomplished in the past few months, and what is in store for the future. First and foremost, we are now fully trained as an artillery battalion after an intense post-deployment artillery refresher training package that ended with a battalion live-fire shoot in December. In January and February, we continued to refine and improve our artillery skills through a series of battery-level live-fire shoots, command posts exercises, and individual skills training. This artillery training was conducted by Headquarters, India, Kilo, and Lima Batteries.

Mike Battery has focused its training on preparing for its upcoming deployment in March to Iraq as a provisional military police company. Over the past three months they completed all required pre-deployment training. Additionally, they completed specialized military police training, to include a ten day training package at the U.S. Army base at Ft. Dix, NJ.

The next several months will be equally busy and exciting for 3/11. Our priorities are to continue improving our artillery skills, to fully prepare India Battery for their April deployment with the 31<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), and to field a new lightweight howitzer, the M777. 3/11 will be the first battalion in the Marine Corps to field the new howitzer. The M777 is the first new cannon the Marine Corps has fielded in over twenty years.

I am 100% committed to supporting our family readiness and Key Volunteer Programs. This newsletter will be published quarterly to provide updates on what the battalion is doing and to provide other useful information. We are also working to improve our battalion's website to make it more relevant and user-friendly for our Marines, Sailors, and families. Finally, we have a robust Key Volunteer Network that is getting stronger every day thanks to the commitment and hard work of many of our spouses.

Our Marines have been at the forefront in our nation's war in Iraq and elsewhere in the world. I will continue to do everything in my power to ensure our Marines and Sailors are fully trained, equipped, and prepared before deploying. I will also do my best to keep you informed. Although these are uncertain times, I am certain we will succeed as we all work together as a team. Thank you again for all your support!  
Semper Fidelis,

Lieutenant Colonel Fairfield  
Commanding Officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines

# **3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines Information Resources**

3/11 Family Readiness Officer  
Maj. James Kendall

3/11 Assistant Family Readiness Officer  
1stLt. Justin Beyer  
(760) 830-5535  
E-mail: [beyerja@29palms.usmc.mil](mailto:beyerja@29palms.usmc.mil)

## **Key Volunteers**

The Key Volunteer Network serves as a source of information and referrals for 3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines families. If you would like to be contacted by your Key Volunteer please call the Assistant Family Readiness Officer at (760) 830-5535.

## **Key Volunteer Advisor 3/11**

Nancy Fairfield

## **Kay Volunteer Coordinator 3/11**

Lenore Kendall

## **Headquarters Battery**

Jean Smith

### **Battery I**

Cynthia Luna

### **Battery K**

Sharon Cameron

### **Battery L**

Sarah Bauer

### **Battery M**

Jill Stout

## **Website Information**

The unit's website is located at <https://www.29palms.usmc.mil> From the 29 Palms home page click on FMF units and then on the "3/11" link. This website has a Family Readiness page for the company .

## **3d Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines E-Newsletter**

If you would like to receive the 3/11 Electronic newsletter, please send an email to [beyerja@29palms.usmc.mil](mailto:beyerja@29palms.usmc.mil)

***The information provided above is protected by the Privacy Act of 1974, Title 10 United States Code. In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, this information is being provided for official use only and cannot be disclosed to anyone other than those it is intended for.***



# KV Coordinator – Lenore Kendall



## February 2005

Hello everyone,

A few quick notes from the Key Volunteer Network:

Our first monthly event for this year will be a Family Bowling Day at Sandy Hill Lanes the 26<sup>th</sup> of Feb at 4 PM. This will be a fun time for everyone to come out, bowl, and get a chance to put some faces to the names that have been calling you this past month. Next months event has already been planned. It will be an Egg Hunt at Felix Field, Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. We will have a pot-luck lunch following the hunt with each battery bringing a different item. Stay tuned for more information coming from your KV about this.

Our latest project, an e-mail system for 3/11 wives, is almost complete. We really appreciate your interest in this endeavor. The ability to pass on material to all the wives quickly and conveniently will be awesome. We have a lot of “forwards” everyday concerning free tickets, postal offers, base events, sports, Battalion functions, and items of interest for military families and children. It will make it so much easier for our wives to take advantage of these offers and services by giving them the ability to access the details from their own e-mail boxes. If you have not given your e-mail address to your KV and would like to, give her a call, or e-mail me directly at [wives311@yahoo.com](mailto:wives311@yahoo.com). I promise that we will do our best to keep your e-mail information protected and confidential.

If you think that you might be interested in becoming a KV yourself we would love to have you. You can call your KV for more information or you can contact me anytime. Have a great week and I hope to see some of you this weekend!

Lenore Kendall

3/11 Key Volunteer Coordinator

## Headquarters Notes...

### Headquarters Battery Commanding Officer

#### Capt. Patrick Nash

Hello Headquarters' Battery families. I am Captain Patrick J. Nash and have been the HQ Commanding Officer since June, taking over while we were deployed in Iraq. HQ Battery is having a fine year throwing our support behind the firing batteries. As many of you know we have supported Operation DESFIREX 1-05, as well as many Combat Operation Center Command Post Exercises and some Tactical Air Control Parties. We also have a few Marines leaving Headquarters Battery to deploy with the firing batteries in support of Unit Deployments as well as the 31<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit. The Marines and Sailors of HQ Battery have been working hard and continue to impress everyone with their devotion to duty. HQ just completed an administrative stand-down and are looking to send over 60 Marines to the rifle range shortly. I look forward to meeting some of you at the KVN sponsored bowling event on Saturday the 26th at the Sandy Hills Lanes on Base. Jean Smith, the new HQ Battery KVN, will be there for the activities also.

Semper Fi,

Captain Patrick Nash

# From the Gun Line...

## **“Mike” Battery Commanding Officer** **Capt. Kevin Stout**

Mike Battery over the last three months has been training for our deployment to OIF III and our mission as provisional military police. Beginning in November and lasting until the Christmas leave block we trained up to the squad level in infantry tactics. I am sure many of you remember the early mornings and late evenings. As a result of the Marines, and all the leaders in the battery we molded our squads into a capable, effective, and lethal fighting force.

In January, the battery prepared for our specific mission as guards of II MEF regional detention facilities. This training was highlighted by a trip to New Jersey and training by Marine corrections specialists.

Prior to deploying we have one major training evolution left to attend and that is Support and Stability Operations training at March Air Force Base. There we will once again train as infantry up to the platoon level, this time in an urban environment. In conclusion, the last few months for Mike Battery have been very demanding. The training and at times the long hours have paid dividends as I have watched the battery prepare for a mission artillerymen are not traditionally assigned. The growth we have experienced is a result of the hard work of the individual Marines and the leadership provided by the NCO's, SNCO's, and officers. The Marines of Mike Battery are prepared and eager to deploy for our assigned mission.

Semper Fi,  
Capt. Kevin Stout

## **“Kilo” Battery Commanding Officer** **Capt. Josh Chartier**

Hello Kilo battery families! Let me take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Captain Josh Chartier and I have been with the battalion since last June. My wife's name is Robin and I have three boys ages 6, 3, and 7 months. Kilo has a busy spring ahead with a battalion shoot from 14-18 March, a battery shoot from 21-22 March, and a Desert Firing Exercise from 23 May – 9 June. Interspersed between the field operations will be the fielding of the new Lightweight 155mm howitzer and some well deserved 72's and 96's. We will have an Easter 72 from 1201pm on 25 March – 0730 29 March and a Memorial Day 96 from 28 May – 1 June. Robin and I look forward to meeting all of you in the months to come.

Semper Fi,  
Capt. Josh Chartier

# From the Gun Line...

## **“Lima” Battery Commanding Officer**

### **Capt. Charles Bauer**

The Marines and Sailors of Lima Battery have been very busy since returning from Iraq at the end of September, post-deployment leave in October, and the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in November. The Battalion and Regiment assisted the Marines of Lima in relearning our dormant artillery skills by providing valuable training in November, followed by DESFIREX 1-05, in early December. Other training opportunities included test firing 14 rebuilt M198 howitzers for Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, in January and in February supporting 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company's (ANGLICO) Tactical Air Control Party live-fire exercise that incorporated fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and artillery. They successfully trained new Marines and prepared for future operational commitments. In next few months Lima will continue to be very busy supporting students from the Expeditionary Warfare School during a Fire Support Coordination Exercise, a battalion live-fire exercise, fielding the new M777 lightweight howitzer, and DESFIREX 2-05 in May/June.

On a sad note, Lima Battery, 3/11, and the entire Marine Corps lost a great Marine and leader. Our First Sergeant, 1stSgt Voiselle Higgins Jr., was killed in automobile accident as he was headed to 29 Palms on 22 November 2004. He was on his way to do the things he did best, leading his Marines and Sailors and taking care of them. Despite this tragic loss, the Marines and Sailors took time to grieve, pay their respects to his family and to his Marine Corps service, and then continue the mission, exactly the way 1stSgt Higgins would have demanded of them.

Semper Fi,

Capt Charles Bauer

## **“India” Battery Commanding Officer**

### **Capt. John Lehane**

By now, I'm sure all of you are well aware of our upcoming deployment with the 31st MEU. Just as we are taking a hard look at our training and readiness as a battery, I encourage all of you to take equally as hard a look at your family's readiness. Now is the best time to identify potential problems, develop plans to overcome them and ensure the well-being of both yourself and your loved one while he is deployed. This upcoming deployment, even more so than the last is filled with unanswered questions and I can assure you that your Marines and Sailors will need as much of their attention focused on the mission at hand as possible.

While we are deployed with the 31st MEU, I intend to do my best to keep our battery website updated with the most current news and information I can. We have already begun to post links and articles relevant to our upcoming deployment including information about BLT 2/4's KV program, life on Okinawa, links to photos and public affairs stories about your Marines and Sailors. You can access our battery website at <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/fmf/311/india.asp>

Finally, please take advantage of our family pre-deployment brief on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. Many of the questions you undoubtedly have can probably be answered that day. If there are any questions that aren't answered that day, please don't hesitate to contact myself or the Battery First Sergeant, First Sergeant Greene.

Semper Fi,

Capt John G. Lehane

# HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

All Base extensions are in area code 760

Base Information	830-6000
Career Resource Office	830-7225
Chaplain (Duty)	830-2190
Child Development Center	830-3227
Information and Referral	830-6344
	1-877-727-5300
DEERS/Identification Cards	830-5365
Financial Management	830-7342
Housing	830-6611
Housing Maintenance	830-6528
Legal Assistance	830-6111
Medical Emergency	911
Naval Hospital (appointments)	830-2286
Naval Hospital (pharmacy)	830-2448
Navy Marine Corps Relief Society	830-6323
New Parent Support Program	830-7622
Nurse Advice Line	830-2674
Poison Control	1-800-876-4766
Provost Marshall Office (PMO)	830-6800
Substance Abuse Counseling	830-6376
Tax Center	830-4829
Tricare Service Line	1-800-242-6788

[INFORMATION LINE \(LOCAL\)](tel:830-1538) 830-1538

## **RED Cross**

- Info needed: Name, Rank, SSN, Unit
- International Red Cross Phone: 1-877-272-7337
- Base Red Cross Phone: (760) 830-6685

**MCCS ONESOURCE** Take advantage of this Information service! 1-800-433-6868

[www.mccsonesource.com](http://www.mccsonesource.com)

Login: Marines Password: SemperFi  
Choose Twentynine Palms

## **Marine Corps Community Services**

[www.29palms.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.29palms.usmc-mccs.org)

## **MCCS Information and Referral**

Operating Hours 7:00am to 5:00pm Pacific Time  
Local: 830-6344  
Toll Free: 1-877-727-5300

## **3/11 Assistant Family Readiness Officer**

(760) 830-5535

Email: [beyerja@29palms.usmc.mil](mailto:beyerja@29palms.usmc.mil)

# INTERNET LINKS

## **Marine Corps Family Team Building**

[http://www.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB/Links/ftb\\_links\\_main.asp](http://www.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB/Links/ftb_links_main.asp)

## **Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS)**

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/index.html>

## **Marine Corps Community Services 29 Palms**

<http://www.29palms.usmc-mccs.org/nav/home.htm>

## **Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)**

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm>

## **U.S. Department of Defense Military Health System (TriCare)**

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/mhshome.aspx>

## **Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)**

For information about your pay, Leave and Earnings Statements or to obtain a W-2.

*Note: You must have signed up for a MyPay account and have a PIN number to access the site.*

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

## **2004 Military Pay Rates**

<http://www.dfas.mil/money/milpay/pay/>

## **U.S. Coast Guard Legal Assistance**

Good information on the Serviceman's Civil Relief Act

<http://www.uscg.mil/legal/la/topics/sscraarticle.htm>

## **Marine Moms website ( Not DOD affiliated )**

<http://www.marinemoms.us/usmc/>

## **3d Bn, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines Marines**

<http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/fmf/311/>

# POSTAL INFORMATION GUIDE

Here's some guidance for proper routing and delivery of mail during the deployment.

Please utilize the addresses exactly as published, especially the *nine-digit zip code*; **deviation from this will result in serious mail delays or return to sender.**

All mail needs a complete return address and destination mailing address to ensure the most expedient and proper delivery. For force protection purposes, **do not** include the addressee's social security, operation name or geographical location in the mailing address.

Parcels are allowed, they need to be sent **first class or priority**. A customs declaration form is required for all packages. You may obtain this form at the post office.

Mail must be addressed to a specific Marine or Sailor. Mail addressed to "Any Service Member" or "Any Marine" will not be delivered. For more information on Postal Regulations please visit the below internet link.

**Unites States Postal Service Mailing Information**

<http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/2003/html/pb22097/apofpo.html>

## **Mail Information**

**The U.S. Postal Service is offering free packing materials to spouses and families of military members who are deployed. To take advantage of this service call: 1-800-610-8734 state that you are a military family and would like to have packing supplies sent to you. They will send you everything you need to mail care packages.**

POSTAL RESTRICTIONS: The following are prohibited by United States postal regulations and/or by military regulations for mailing to Kuwait and Iraq.

- a. Firearms or weapons of any type, including air guns and toy guns.
- b. Ammunition clips/magazines
- c. Pornography, obscene magazines or videos
- d. Religious materials
- e. Pork or pork by-products of any kind
- f. Fireworks, Alcohol, Tobacco in excess of 200 grams
- g. Chemicals or hazardous materials

TIP: Use nylon filament fiber tape to ensure parcels arrive in theater (area of deployment) in one piece.

## **Dealing with the Media**

Here are some helpful things to know if you are approached by the media:

1. You are not obligated to speak with any member of the media. If you are not comfortable, don't speak with them.
2. If you do choose to speak with members of the media, the base Public Affairs Office can assist you during the interview process and help protect your rights and privacy. The phone number is (760) 830-6213
3. Remember that our loved ones are watching from afar. If you choose to speak with media, show them the strength and courage of a military wife. Let's not give the enemy any reason to believe that they are defeating the spirit of the American people.



# General Information

The 29 Palms base community has a wide variety of programs available to assist you during this deployment. The following are only a few examples of the wonderful services and programs currently being offered. For more information on programs, services and agencies both on and off-base please visit the Information and Referral office in the Village Center.

## **Armed Services YMCA Car Seat Program**

Military dependants are eligible to receive a brand new child car seat from the ASYMCA for only \$10! To pick up your car seat you will need to bring your vehicle, your child and your old car seat (if you have one) to the ASYMCA building. Expectant mothers are eligible once you are 8 months pregnant. If you are interested please contact the ASYMCA at 830-7481.

## **Personal Financial Management Program**

Located in bldg. 1551, this program is an invaluable asset for military families to acquire financial management skills and consumer awareness. Individualized and confidential counseling is available in areas such as debt rehabilitation, financial awareness, creditor intervention and consumer education. If you are interested, please contact 830-7342

## **Wills & Powers of Attorney**

The Staff Judge Advocate office can assist you in preparing a will or a special power of attorney to provide for the care of your children if anything should happen to you while your spouse is deployed. It is just as important to have an emergency plan in place for yourself as it is to have one for your marine or sailor. You can reach the SJA office at 830-6111

## **Emergency Childcare**

MCCS and the CDC can provide childcare in emergency situations. If you have a medical emergency, feel like you may be close to hitting your child or are in another emergency situation the CDC can provide short or long term childcare. Contact the CDC at 830-3227 or the Remain Behind Element.

## **Lifelong Learning**

There are a number of educational opportunities available here on base. You can finish high school, take college classes, earn a certificate, or complete an Associate's, Bachelor's even a Master's degree or simply take a class for personal enrichment. The education center can also provide you with information on scholarships and financial aid. Contact the Education Center at 830-6881 for more information.

## **Career Resource Office**

Located in bldg. 1428, the Career Resource Office can help you with resume preparation, interview techniques and other means to move up in your current career or re-enter the work force. They even have computer training and certification programs. Contact the Career Resource Office at 830-7225 for more information.

## **Exceptional Family Member Program**

The EFMP is designed to provide assistance to active duty families with a family member who may require special medical or educational services. This program will help insure that you will have access to the care and services you require. For more information please call 830-7740.

# Operation “ENDURING FAMILIES”

## **Care Package Mailing Days – Monthly**

***POC: (Business Ops), 830-6163***

- Exchange to provide Polaroid camera and film for free family pictures to send in care package.
- Applies to all deployed service members in Okinawa or participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- Exchange to provide FREE materials to pack up the care package-boxes, tape, labels, etc...
- Hours of operation are 10:00am ~ 6:00pm
- One (1) package per authorized family member, per day. Address must be printed in BLOCK letters and package must have a customs declaration form attached, which will be provided on site. All packages must be addressed to a specific individual.
- Due to a change to DOD regulations, the Marine Corps Exchange is no longer able to provide free postage on Care Package Mailing Day. The program will continue with patrons paying for postage. Because of this, the Marine Corps Exchange would like to offer a \$10 off coupon towards your next purchase at the Main Exchange. In addition, enjoy 25% off pre-packaged care packages ready to be mailed to your loved one deployed on UDP to Okinawa, or participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## **Newsletter**

***POC: (Marketing) 830-5053***

- MCCS publishes the Super Flyer every three weeks featuring promotional events and programs designed specifically for “Operation ENDURING FAMILIES”.
- Base housing residents receive the flyer automatically. OFFBASE RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SIGN UP AT THE INFORMATION BOOTH AT THE MCX OR ONLINE AT [www.29palms.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.29palms.usmc-mccs.org)
- The newsletter will include helpful articles, pictures from events, coupons, drawings and more.

## **Information Booth and Stands**

***POC: (Community Support), 830-8456***

- MCCS employees will man an information booth in the MCX to answer questions and distribute informational materials for “Operation Enduring Families”.
- Monday-Friday 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Info Stands will be located at the MCX, Naval Hospital and Community Center.

## **Lifelong Learning Library**

***POC: (Lifelong Learning Library), 830-6875***

Ongoing Programs:

- Story Hour: Tuesdays from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. for 3-5 year olds.
- Lap Time Program: Wednesdays from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. for infants to 2 year olds.
- English As A Second Language (ESL) Program: Every Tuesday from September through May from 4 – 5:30 p.m.



# Chaplain's Corner



"In the path of righteousness there is life..."

Proverbs 12:28

Greetings! Morale is very high throughout Third Battalion as Mike and India prepare for yet another tour of duty in Southwest Asia and beyond. Having trained for their mission, and looking forward to answering our nation's call to defend our shores and to establish world peace, our men have a tremendous opportunity to guide others on the path of righteousness.

A crucial part in accomplishing that mission is maintaining proper spiritual fitness. Why? Well, just like following proper military procedures will ensure the safety of our Marines and sailors, winning the hearts of the local populace will show the world we truly care about doing what is morally right in the War on Terror.

In our everyday lives, some paths we take may cause us heartache and despair. That's why we need to become familiar with preventive measures instituted by God that will take us down the path of life and peace. According to the prophet Micah, God requires us "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with [our] God."

Sometimes we get complacent. We lose our way, and place our trust in ungodly things. Unfortunately, when our guard is down, temptation strikes. If Marines get complacent, bad guys will strike. If Marines don't care about the welfare of the people they are trying to help, moral leverage is lost.

If we strive to walk the path of righteousness—walking in freedom and life in the Spirit—then the cares of this world will cease to terrify us. Walking the path of righteousness—whether deployed, in garrison, or at home—we can accomplish any mission!

Blessings,  
Chaplain Grove